

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Claims 19 and 21 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 101.

Clearly, no new matter has been added, and no new issues have been raised which require further consideration on the merits and/or a new search. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claims 19 and 21 be approved and entered, and that the rejection under 35 USC 101 be withdrawn.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 12, 13, 17-19 and 21 were again all rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of USP 6,327,599 ("Warmus et al") and USP 6,480,866 ("Mastie"), together or in further combination with one of previously cited USP 5,588,103 ("Aoyagi") and USP 6,470,363 ("Kanerva et al"). These rejections, however, are again respectfully traversed.

In particular, it is respectfully submitted that Warmus et al, taken in combination with any of the other cited references, does not at all disclose, teach or suggest the feature of the

present invention as recited in independent claim 12 (and corresponding program claim 19) whereby the plural virtual document data is obtained by designating a virtual printer.

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that Warmus et al, taken in combination with any of the other cited references, does not disclose, teach or suggest the features of the present invention as recited in independent claims 12 and 17 (and corresponding program claims 19 and 21) whereby after the virtual document data is obtained, the virtual document data is edited as recited in claims 12 and 17 (and corresponding program code claims 19 and 21).

Still further, it is respectfully submitted that Warmus et al, taken in combination with any of the other cited references, does not disclose, teach or suggest the feature of the present invention whereby data from a plurality of different respective application programs is obtained as or converted into virtual document data.

According to the present invention as recited in independent claim 12 (and corresponding program code claim 19), virtual document data obtaining means are provided for obtaining plural virtual document data each including plural individual pages each in a format with a page number added. The plural virtual document data are formed by designating a virtual printer while using respective different kinds of application programs such

that the plural virtual document data comprises a plurality of types of virtual document data corresponding to the respective application programs. And the plural virtual document data contain specific page numbers which have been formed by said respective application programs.

In addition, according to the present invention as recited in independent claim 12 (and corresponding program code claim 19), storage means stores the plural virtual document data obtained by the virtual document data obtaining means, and display means displays the plural virtual document data stored in the storage means.

Still further, according to the present invention as recited in independent claim 12 (and corresponding program code claim 19), editing means are provided for selecting respective plural individual pages to form an output virtual document to be outputted, from among the plural individual pages included in the plurality of types of virtual document data of the plural virtual document data displayed on the display means, and for designating an output page order for the selected individual pages in the output virtual document.

And according to the present invention as recited in independent claim 12 (and corresponding program code claim 19), controlling means are provided for: (i) reading out the selected plural individual pages of the output virtual document from the

storage means, (ii) changing the specific page numbers to page numbers corresponding to the output page order of the output virtual document, and (iii) outputting the plural individual pages of the output virtual document with the changed page numbers.

That is, as explained in the Amendment filed on November 12, 2004, according to the present invention as recited in independent claim 12 (and corresponding program code claim 19), a plurality of different application programs form a plurality of document data, each of which has been paginated by its respective application program, and the already paginated document data from the plurality of application programs is obtained as virtual document data by designating a virtual printer, as recited in amended independent claim 12 (and corresponding program code claim 19).

After the virtual document data has been obtained, according to the present invention as recited in claim 12 (and corresponding program code claim 19), editing of the virtual document data is performed to select various individual pages to makeup an output virtual document, such that the selected pages are read out, renumbered to reflect their position in the output virtual document, and outputted.

According to the present invention as recited in independent claim 17 (and corresponding program code claim 21), moreover, the

converting means converts a plurality of individual document data formed by respective different application programs to have specific page numbers into drawing records to form virtual document data.

In addition, according to the present invention as recited in independent claim 17 (and corresponding program code claim 21), storage means stores the virtual document data having the specific page numbers converted by the converting means, and instruction means instructs editing of the virtual document data.

Still further, according to the present invention as recited in independent claim 17 (and corresponding program code claim 21), displaying means are provided for displaying page information included in the virtual document data stored in the storage means, when the editing of the virtual document is instructed by the instruction means; editing means are provided for editing page positions of output virtual document data to be outputted, based on the page information of the virtual document data displayed on the display means; and controlling means for outputting the output virtual document data edited by the editing means in accordance with the edited page positions.

Thus, according to the present invention as recited in independent claim 17 (and corresponding program code claim 21), a plurality of individual document data formed by respective application programs is converted into drawing records to form

virtual document data. And after the virtual document data is formed, editing of the virtual document data is performed in which page information included in the virtual document data is displayed, and the editing means edits page positions of output virtual document data to be outputted, based on the page information of the virtual document data displayed on the display means.

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner contends that Warmus et al discloses the "converting means" of the present invention as recited in claim 12. It is respectfully pointed out, however, that the claim language referred to by the Examiner in the rejection of claim 12 including the "converting means," "output-subject setting means," and "output control means" corresponds to the subject matter of original claim 1, which was canceled in the Amendment filed on August 22, 2003. In addition, it is also respectfully pointed out that the Examiner has not cited any feature of Warmus et al as corresponding to the "virtual printer" recited in independent claim 12 (and corresponding program claim 19) with respect to the virtual document data obtaining means.

As recognized by the Examiner, Warmus et al discloses at column 5, lines 41-48 thereof that master and variable page files and a press command file are converted into bitmaps which may be

stored in a memory and which are used for printing or display. It is respectfully submitted, however, that the conversion to bitmaps does not occur by designating a virtual printer as recited in independent claim 12 (and corresponding program claim 19).

Indeed, it is respectfully pointed out that as shown in Fig. 2 of Warmus et al, the step of creating bitmaps via a collator and raster image processor occurs immediately before printing. In fact, according to Warmus et al the collator and raster image processor are provided in a print system 79 corresponding to a demand printing system and output to a demand printer 84. (See Fig. 4 of Warmus et al).

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the bitmap conversion of Warmus et al, which the Examiner contends corresponds to the virtual document data obtaining recited in independent claim 12 (and corresponding program code claim 19), is achieved by sending data to an actual printing system which prints data. By contrast, according to the present invention as recited in independent claim 12 (and corresponding program code claim 19), the plural virtual document data is obtained by designating a virtual printer while using respective different application programs.

The Examiner also asserts on page 4 of the Office Action that Warmus et al discloses performing various operations on data

SPOOL-stored in storage means at column 8, lines 9-12, at column 8, line 57 to column 9, line 3, and at and column 9, lines 57-59 thereof.

In this connection, however, it is respectfully pointed out that the database 108 of Warmus et al, identified by the Examiner as corresponding to the storage means of the present invention, is shown in Fig. 5 of Warmus et al as being upstream of print system 79, where the collator and raster image processor create the bitmap files. (Fig. 5 of Warmus et al is a flow diagram showing the steps implemented by the method of Warmus et al; see column 4, lines 25 and 26 thereof.)

Indeed, Warmus et al discloses at column 8, line 66 to column 9, line 3, which was referred to by the Examiner, that the print system 79 operates in response to the files created following the diagram of Fig. 5 of Warmus et al, as described in column 8 thereof. And as described hereinabove, the print system 79 of Warmus et al creates the bitmaps that the Examiner asserts correspond to the virtual document data of the claimed present invention.

Column 9, lines 57-59 of Warmus et al, moreover, describe the method steps shown in Fig. 9 thereof. And it is respectfully pointed out that Fig. 9 of Warmus et al shows a method for creating the template files of Fig. 5. (See column 4, lines 33-35 of Warmus et al.)

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the processing identified by the Examiner on page 4 of the Office Action as corresponding to the editing of the virtual document data of the present invention, takes place before the bitmaps of Warmus et al (which the Examiner contends corresponds to the virtual document data of the present invention) are even formed.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the processing identified by the Examiner in Warmus et al cannot possibly correspond to the displaying, editing and controlling of the virtual document data according to the present invention as recited in independent claims 12 and 17 (and corresponding program code claims 19 and 21), all of which, of course, occurs after the virtual document data is formed.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that even if the bitmap data of Warmus et al corresponds to the virtual document data of the claimed present invention, Warmus et al still clearly does not disclose, teach or suggest the editing means and controlling means recited in independent claim 12 (and corresponding program code claim 19), and it is respectfully submitted that Warmus et al also clearly does not disclose, teach or suggest the instruction means, display means, editing means and controlling means recited in independent claim 17 (and corresponding program code claim 21).

As explained in the Amendment filed on November 12, 2005, moreover, it is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references disclose, teach or suggest the feature of the present invention whereby data from a plurality of different respective application programs is obtained as or converted into virtual document data. In this connection, it is noted that the Examiner asserts on page 4 of the Office Action that Warmus et al discloses this feature of the present invention. However, the Examiner has not pointed to any disclosure in Warmus et al to support this assertion.

The Examiner contends on page 8 of the Office Action that, for example, the conversion of a WordPerfect document into a Word document corresponds to this feature of the present invention.

It is respectfully submitted, however, that this example provided by the Examiner merely demonstrates the conversion of data of a first application program into data in a second application program, and does not correspond to the conversion of data of (multiple) respective application programs into virtual document data.

According to the present invention as recited in independent claim 12 (and corresponding program code claim 19), by contrast, plural virtual document data is obtained which includes a plurality of types of virtual document data corresponding to respective different types of application programs. That is, the

virtual document data recited in claim 12 (and corresponding program code claim 19) does not merely correspond to a single type of application data (i.e. a Word document as suggested by the Examiner), but rather includes types of virtual document data corresponding to respective different application programs.

According to the present invention as recited in independent claim 17 (and corresponding program code claim 21), a plurality of individual document data from respective different application programs are converted into drawing records to form virtual document data. Thus, the virtual document data recited in independent claim 17 (and corresponding program code claim 21) comprises drawing records formed from a plurality of application programs, not merely data from a single application program, as suggested by the Examiner.

It is therefore again respectfully submitted that Warmus et al does not disclose, teach or suggest virtual document data corresponding to a plurality of respective application programs, in the manner recited in independent claims 12 and 17 (and corresponding program claims 19 and 21).

In addition, it is respectfully submitted that Mastie et al, Aoyagi and Kanerva et al also do not at all disclose, teach or suggest the above-identified features of the present invention recited in independent claims 12 and 17 (and corresponding program claims 19 and 21).

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that even if Warmus et al, Mastie, Aoyagi and Kanerva et al were combinable in the manner suggested by the Examiner, the structural features and advantageous effects of the claimed present invention would still not be achieved or rendered obvious.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in the amended claims clearly patentably distinguishes over all of the cited references, taken singly or in combination, under 35 USC 103.

RE: PRIORITY DOCUMENTS

As requested by the Examiner, copies of the priority documents are attached hereto.

RE: INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Submitted herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement making of record JP 08-258380 was cited in counterpart Japanese Application No. 10-365309.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

Application No. 09/449,699
Response to Final Office Action

Customer No. 01933

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


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